

SERVICE FRAMEWORK WITH LOCAL PROXY FOR REPRESENTING REMOTE
SERVICES

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Abstract of the Disclosure

10 In an information appliance system 100, a user device 108 comprises a client
platform (200, FIG. 5) that includes a service framework (235, FIG. 5) to discover and
connect with a variety of services, both remote and local, transient and persistent, and to
disconnect from them when they are no longer of interest or become unavailable. The
service framework 235 provides a standard, consistent, simplified way for services to make
themselves available and for service-using entities to locate and connect with the services of
interest to them. From the perspective of the client platform 200, all services, whether local
15 or remote, are presented as local services to the application. Each remote service is
represented as a local service through the use of a local proxy that insulates the service user
from the complexities of communicating with a remote server. Various methods of
operating a service framework are also described.